

employee newsletter

utah department of

human services

Homefront

Happy Holidays

from DHS

DECEMBER 2017

IN THIS ISSUE

- [Volunteer opportunities at DHS](#)
- [DSAMH supports federal partners](#)

Years of Service Awards



40 Years

Polly Colbert

25 Years

Cindy Draper

Tami Jones

Michele Stewart

20 Years

John Lowder

David MaCart

Tamera Nuttal

Jared Orton

Jared Stafford

Natalie Stoddard



Alan Owens,
DHS Human Resources
Field Office Director,
Department of Human
Resource Management

I have two favorite kinds of pie, namely, hot pie and cold pie. Each year I look forward to the holiday season with great anticipation as the abundance and variety of available pie grow exponentially. Much like a variety of pie can add richness and depth to our holiday season, a culturally and demographically diverse workplace provides a wealth of differing perspectives and ideas that enhance our services, processes and the lives of those served.


The updated DHS Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) Utilization Report required by the Department of Justice shows how well we do in creating a diverse workplace that is reflective of Utah's population. This year, the report showed that our employee population is increasingly reflective of diversity within our State. This is wonderful news and means that DHS is about where it should be in creating a culturally diverse workplace.

The report also highlighted a few areas where we could do better. For example, we found that more engagement of Hispanic males within our workforce will help us build a stronger workplace and offer greater

Leadership Message:

People & Culture

reflection of our Utah population. Efforts are underway to drive awareness of available jobs and careers within DHS to Hispanic males and your efforts to spread the word about these opportunities are greatly appreciated.

As you continue in your own hiring processes, take a minute to review the EEO report [found here](#) and take the findings into consideration. I hope you and yours have a wonderful holiday season filled with superfluous amounts of pie. 



**Homefront
available online!**

Find Homefront online and read past issues at employees.hs.utah.gov.

Have a story idea, photo submission or feedback on DHS Homefront?

Contact the editor, Allie Jurkatis
ajurkatis@utah.gov



Finding Solutions with Federal Partners



The **Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health (DSAMH)** is working with federal partners to build a benefit that will help people experiencing homelessness, mental health issues or substance use disorders access needed services that lead to recovery and self-sufficiency.

As part of Sen. Orrin Hatch's Disability Council, DSAMH provides feedback and information regarding the impact of the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) and Medicaid. Continued CHIP funding has made it out of committee and is part of ongoing bipartisan discussions taking place with Sen. Hatch playing a key role to move it forward.

DSAMH also meets regularly with the Department of Health's Division of Medicaid and Health Financing to discuss the details of Medicaid Waivers being sought by the state of Utah and considered by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services /U.S. Department of Health and Human Services in Washington D.C. Discussions involve how to define the population of focus and the operationalization of those definitions into policy and practice.

Former Utah State Senator Brian Shiozawa's appointment as U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Regional Director will provide further partnership with federal agencies related to these opportunities for all DHS constituents. 🏠👥





Opportunities to Give Back at DHS

During this holiday season, when many are looking for ways to give back or volunteer. We invite you to help, and also share these needs at DHS with your friends and family:

- Child and Family Services [tutors, mentors and assistants](#)
- Juvenile Justice Services [detention facilities and youth centers](#)
- Public Guardian [holiday donations](#)
- Utah State Developmental Center events and assistance for individuals with disabilities (contact Sandra Cooke [801-763-4008](tel:801-763-4008), scooke@utah.gov)
- Utah State Hospital [Forgotten Patient Christmas Project](#), [occupational, recreational and physical therapy](#), and [Forgotten Patients Cemetery Project](#) 🏠👥



Caring for DHS Family Caregivers

The Division of Aging and Adult Services (DAAS) partners with the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) in Utah to provide information and resources that support DHS caregivers.

If you provide assistance to an older adult, someone who is disabled, or a grandchild outside of your work-related duties, consider these tips and resources that can reduce stress and worry in times of need:

- Start a conversation with your family and loved ones to enlist support
- Form a team of people who can help
- Make a plan
- Have regular family meetings
- Find community supports and resources

For more information, contact DAAS' Nancy Madsen at nmadsen@utah.gov or visit aarp.org/ut. 🏠👥

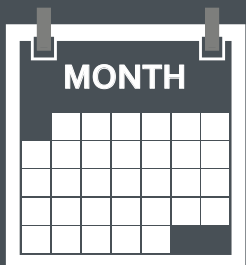
Around DHS

As part of National Caregiver Month in November, **The Utah State Developmental Center (USDC)** recognized top caregivers who ensure the health, safety and wellbeing of residents with disabilities. (From left: Michell Patterson, D'ann Carter, Cory Ernst, Grant Powell, Superintendent Guy Thompson, Absent: Debbie Ferry) 🧑🏻‍🤝‍🧑🏻 🏠



Nine DHS workgroups of staff, providers and family advocates presented recommendations to DHS leaders on ways to better integrate and streamline areas of contracting, training, monitoring, quality assurance, data and clinical services and supports. More coming on this change effort in 2018.





January Calendar

National Mentoring Month

Jan. 1 - New Year's Day


Jan. 4 - Heart Gallery moves to Orem

Jan. 15 - Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Jan. 22 - Legislative Session Begins

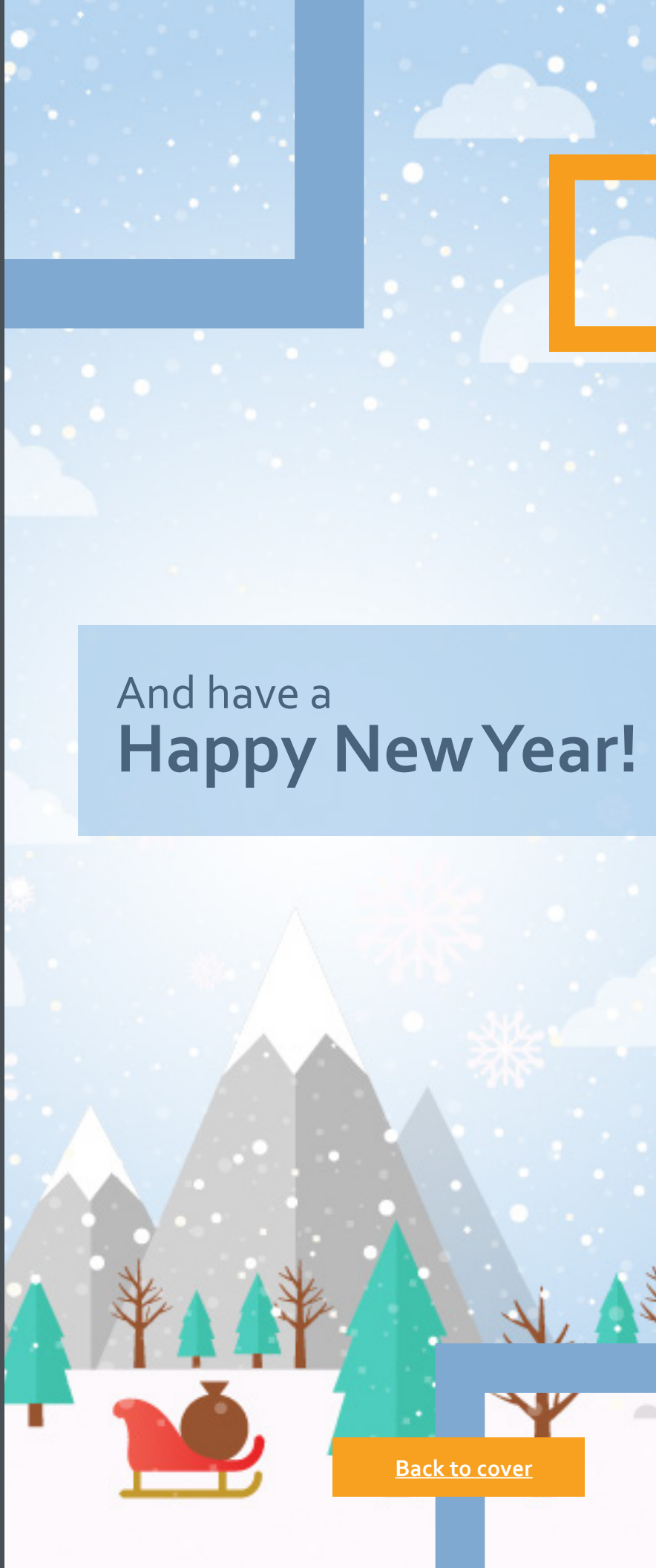


December Safety Topic: Spreading Ice Melt

Spreading ice melt over icy walks and surfaces is everyone's responsibility. All DHS locations are equipped with ice melt at each entry or doorway. If you see an icy walkway or patch without ice melt, be the one to keep others and yourself safe by putting it down. If you do not see ice melt available at your location, please talk with your facility manager. 

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And have a
Happy New Year!



[Back to cover](#)